(d) to (f) Grant of international traffic rights to all scheduled Indian carriers eligible to go abroad is an on-going process. According to the process, all eligible carriers submit their operational plans in the first and third quarters of each year. After examination, traffic rights are granted to private scheduled carriers depending on the availability of traffic rights to particular countries/routes and after giving due consideration to the operational plans of national carriers.

Garbage dumps around airports

1489. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic and International airlines have reported against increasing number of bird hits due to expanding garbage dumps around the major airports in the country; and

(b) what steps have been taken by the Ministry, State Government and the respective municipal authorities to keep the surroundings of airports clean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. As against 189 bird hit incident reported in the year 2005, only 167 bird hit incidents were reported in the year 2006.

(b) While bird hits have not increased in number, measures have been taken to reduce/ eradicate bird activity at the airports. Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airport where scheduled flights operate to identify the source of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. Various, specific steps such as proper disposal of garbage prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage bins establishment of modem abattoirs, scaring of birds etc. have also been taken to reduce the incidence of bird hits.

Recuritment of air staff in Goa

1490. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gives representation to the people of district/town/state in which airports are located, in the matter of jobs of pilots cabin-crew, engineers, clerical staff, technical staff etc.; and

(b) the number of such personnel, either by way of giving representations of otherwise from Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Recruitment to all the posts in Government/PSUs, including Airports Authority of India (AAI) is made in accordance with the procedure prescribed for the relevant post.

(b) The number of personnel in Group "C" & "D" belonging to the State of Goa in Western Region of AAI is 25.

Fate of Employees After the Merger of lndian and Air India

† 1491. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when a complete merger of Indian and Air India is likely to take place;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.